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During this period the investigator produced papers with titles, "Duality, finite improvement and efficiently solved optimization problems," "Sensitivity of probabilistic results on algorithm for NP-complete problems to input distribution," and a third, being written now, "Probabilistic analysis of algorithms for the satisfiability problem." The first shows that it is highly unlikely that an NP-complete problem can be solved by any of a certain broad class of algorithms. The second shows that favorable results on a certain set of problems are misleading. That is if another input distribution is used the algorithms perform badly in the probabilistic sense. The main result in the third is that the satisfiability problem, an NP-complete problem, can be solved efficiently in the probabilistic sense under a distribution which causes no misleading results. The report summarizes results of research conducted under the grant during the inclusive dates.

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PROBABILISTIC ANALYSIS OF ALGORITHMS
FOR NP-COMPLETE PROBLEMS

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JOHN FRANCO, Principal Investigator
CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

Scientific Report
September, 1983

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The first year of this project has resulted in material for three papers and this material was presented to about 40 members of the technical staff at the Institute for Defense Analysis. Two papers which have already been written are "Duality, Finite Improvement and Efficiently Solved Optimization Problems" and "Sensitivity of Probabilistic Results on Algorithms for NP-Complete Problems to Input Distribution". A third paper tentatively entitled "Probabilistic Analysis of Algorithms for the Satisfiability Problem" is being written now. The first paper shows that it is highly unlikely that an NP-complete problem can be solved by any of a certain broad class of algorithms. This statement has a negative impact on probabilistic results for NP-complete problems. The second paper presents some very favorable probabilistic results based on some commonly used input distributions. These results are obtained for extremely simple-minded algorithms based on techniques like search rearrangement. Some of these results were obtained by us and some by others. It is shown that in all the cases presented there is something misleading about the favorable results and that if another distribution F is used the algorithms perform badly in the probabilistic sense. The third paper presents algorithms which seem to perform well



under F in probability. Some of these algorithms are analyzed mathematically and some are analyzed empirically. The main result of this paper is that the satisfiability problem, an NP-complete problem, can be solved efficiently in the probabilistic sense under a distribution which causes no known misleading results.

The two talks that were presented to the Institute for Defense Analysis were based on the second and third papers.

The first paper was recently presented at the semi-annual Midwest Theory Conference and was recently submitted to Mathematics of Operations Research. The second paper was submitted to the Journal of the Association for Computing Machinery in September, 1983. All three papers will be sent to AFOSR in February or early March along with a more detailed report of progress.